

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed on January 1, 2006. With this amendment, claims 1, 4, 5, 33 and 36 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 14-17 and 36-40 have been cancelled. The application now includes claims 1, 4-8, 10-12 and 33-35.

The Office Action rejected claims 3-5 and 33-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Office Action stated that in claim 3, line 4, the term "main member" lacked antecedent basis. The subject matter of claim 3 has been incorporated into claim 1 and the phrase "main member" has been changed to "main body". Changing of the word "member" to "body" provides the proper antecedent basis.

In claim 33, line 11, the term "the through bore" lacks prior antecedent basis. To rectify the antecedent basis, the article "the" has been changed to the article "a". In addition, the Office Action pointed out that the term "the main member" in line 13 lacks proper antecedent basis. The word "member" has been changed to "body" to provide the proper antecedent basis. In view of these changes, it is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, with regard to claims 3, 33 and 36 be withdrawn.

The Office Action next rejected claims 1, 2, 6-8, 14-17 and 36-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Dobrovolny U.S. Patent No. 6,602,190. The Office Action also objected to claims 3-5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 2 and 3. In addition, claims 4 and 5 which depended from claim 3 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. In addition, claims 14-17 and 36-40 have also been cancelled.

In view of the amendment to claim 1, it is believed that claim 1 is now in allowable form. Furthermore, the remainder of the existing dependent claims that depend from

claim 1, that is claims 4-8 are also now in allowable form since they depend from an allowable base claim.

In view of the fact that all of the claims now in the application are now in allowable form, a Notice of Allowance in the application is respectfully requested.


In canceling the rejected claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), applicant hereby reserves the right to file a divisional application naming Walter Dobrowolny as the sole inventor.

Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims in this application is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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